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Written Testimony of Christopher Phelps, Program Director  
Before the Connecticut General Assembly Energy and Technology Committee

Thursday, February 10, 2011

Written testimony regarding Proposed Senate Bill 255, An Act Concerning Solar Renewable  
Energy Certificates.

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, Senator Witkos, Representative Hoydick, and  
members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony regarding SB 255. Environment  
Connecticut is a member-supported non-profit environmental advocacy organization. We are a  
part of the Environment America federation of state-based environment groups and advocate for  
policies to protect our air, water, and natural landscape.

As the members of the committee know, Environment Connecticut strongly supports policies that  
will increase our state's use of solar power for electric generation. SB 493 from 2010 (vetoed by  
Governor Rell) included very good provisions that would have resulted in as much as 300  
megawatts of new solar power systems built in Connecticut over the course of approximately the  
next decade. At the core of the solar power provisions in that legislation was a solar renewable  
energy credit (SREC) performance-based market incentive program to incentivize commercial  
development of solar power systems. Such programs have proven very successful in many other  
states and are resulting in significant growth in solar generation as well as local solar power  
industry around the country.

As the committee considers its priorities for 2011, we urge you to include solar power policies  
such as these as a way of creating homegrown, renewable energy that can help break our  
dependence on oil and other polluting energy sources while also cutting pollution.

Sincerely,

Christopher Phelps  
Program Director  
Environment Connecticut